

UPPER ELEMENTARY

WEEK 2- STARTER



Activity Name: Do the Opposite

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Instruct the group to stand up and spread out.
- Explain that you're going to play "Do the Opposite." You will give a command, and the kids are to do the exact opposite as quickly as they can.
- Start with simple commands and get faster as they get the hang of it.
- "Jump up high!" (They should crouch down low.)
- "Sit down!" (They should stand up.)
- "Whisper your name!" (They should shout their name.)
- "Look to the left!" (They should look to the right.)
- "Put your hands on your head!" (They should put their hands on their toes.)
- Let kids take turns giving the commands.

What You Say:

Nice job! It takes a lot of focus to do the opposite of what you're told. Sometimes the way Jesus asks us to live feels opposite to what the world tells us to do. The world says, 'Be the most important!' But we are learning to be upside-down and put others first by giving up what we want.

In our true story from the Bible today, a powerful Roman commander—an enemy of the Jewish people—shows us a different, 'upside-down' way to think about power and authority. Let's go find out more.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

WEEK 2- SMALL GROUP

Discussion Questions:

- The Roman commander had a lot of power, but he still asked Jesus for help. What does that tell us about what it means to be strong or in charge in God’s eyes?
- Jesus was amazed by the commander’s faith. What do you think it means to have the kind of faith that “amazes” Jesus?
- The commander believed Jesus could heal his servant just by speaking. What are some things in your life that you need to trust God can handle—without you having to control them?
- The Roman commander humbled himself, even though he was important. What are some ways you can show humility and remember that God is most important in your own life?
- Jesus said people from all over would be part of God’s kingdom—not just a certain group. How does that change the way you think about who God’s love is for and how we should treat others?



Bible Story

A Roman Commander Has Faith • *Matthew 8:5-13*

Conversation Starter

How do you show that God is important?

Bottom Line

Remember God is most important.

Monthly Memory Verse

Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

Activity Name: Application Roll

What You Need: Large Die

What You Do:

- Explain that the kids will take turns rolling the die. The number they roll will match a question you ask.
- Let the first kid roll the die. If they roll a 3, ask them question #3 from the list.
- Continue rolling the die and asking questions until everyone who wants a turn has had one.

Application Questions:

1. Name one person who is important to you.
2. Name one thing or activity that is important to you.
3. How can you show humility in your own life?
4. What does it mean to be strong or in charge in God's eyes?
5. Who is a very important person in the world?
6. Who is the most important person in the whole universe? (God/Jesus!)

What You Say:

Those are great answers! There are lots of important people and things in our lives. But our true story from the Bible today about the important Roman commander helped us learn to **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important.** The commander knew Jesus' authority was bigger than anyone's, and Jesus was so amazed by his faith!

So what does this mean for us? It's remembering what the Roman commander knew—God is more important and more powerful than anything. God is in charge! If there is something that you're scared of at nighttime, you can ask God for help. If something is bothering you at school, ask God for His help. If you are having a hard time with a friend, ask God for help. God is the King of everything! **[Bottom Line] Remember, God is most important.**

KEEP GROUP TOGETHER UNTIL PICK UP